

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 05443 211507Z
ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 05443

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SNAR, GE, GW, WB
SUBJECT: PROPOSED HOUSE DRUG COMMITTEE VISIT

REF: A. STATE 211362, B. BERLIN 5312, C. BERLIN 5368.

1. I FAVOR APPROACHING THE GDR TO SEEK APPOINTMENT FOR CODEL TO MEET WITH GDR OFFICIALS IN EAST BERLIN TO DISCUSS DRUG ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING. AN APPROACH FOR APPOINTMENT HERE WOULD TEND TO REINFORCE MY OWN REPRESENTATION (REF B) AND CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE WHITE HOUSE AND THE CONGRESS ATTACH TO DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFIC. OFFICIALS HERE WILL LEARN ABOUT THE HEARINGS IN WEST BERLIN IN ANY CASE AND MAY WELL WONDER WHY THEY WERE NOT GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH CODEL IN VIEW OF OUR CURRENT EFFORTS TO ENLIST GDR COOPERATION.

2. THE DEPARTMENT IS OF COURSE CORRECT IN NOTING THAT THE GDR HAS CONSISTENTLY SHOWN A KEEN INTEREST IN SUBSTANTIVE CONGRESSIONAL VISITS AND IS DISAPPOINTED NO SUCH VISITS HAVE TAKEN PLACE. IN CASE OF CODEL ENGLISH, I AM FRANKLY UNCERTAIN HOW THE GDR WILL RESPOND IN VIEW OF THE PUBLIC ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE GDR AND CURRENT RATHER COOL EAST-
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WEST CLIMATE. ON BALANCE, I BELIEVE THE GDR RECOGNIZES THE INTRINSIC VALUE OF COOPERATION ON DRUG ABUSE AND CONTROL OF ILLICIT TRAFFIC; OFFICIALS HERE SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THAT COOPERATIVE DRUG PROGRAMS WOULD HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN CREATING A BETTER CLIMATE FOR THE CONDUCT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS AND COULD CONTRIBUTE TO GENERATION OF FAVORABLE PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES.

3. I ENTIRELY AGREE WITH THRUST OF PARA 6 OF REF A; THIS RATHER DELICATE EXERCISE SHOULD BE MANAGED IN A LOW-KEY AND BALANCED FASHION IF WE ARE TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING COOPERATION OF BOTH GERMAN STATES IN CONTROLLING OR ELIMINATING DRUG FLOW. IN GENERAL, I FAVOR FURTHER APPROACHES HERE ALONG THE LINES OF REF B AND PARA 6 OF REF C. AS POINTED OUT IN BONN'S 10556, WE SHOULD AVOID DRAWING CONCLUSIONS FROM INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION ON AN ISSUE WHERE SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL EFFORT AND EVIDENCE IS OBVIOUSLY REQUIRED BEFORE A WELL-DEFINED PICTURE OF TRAFFICKING CAN EMERGE, LEADING TO INCREASED INTERDICTION. BOLEN

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